

despite the fact that the Agency believed that such strict standards are inappropriate.

This legislation would restore the EPA's original regulatory determination allowing these materials to be safely treated and disposed of in permitted treatment units and injection wells.

Due to the court decision, the EPA will be forced to impose these needless and expensive requirements if Congress does not act very soon. I am glad that we are able to act on this legislation today and I hope that the bill will move quickly in the other body.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Florida). All time has expired.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2036, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2036, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. STEARNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. BRYANT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BRYANT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### PROTECT THE NATION'S CREDITWORTHINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, we now approach a time within only a very few weeks when for the first time in over two centuries of this country, the full faith and credit of the United States of America is being placed in dire risk. The creditworthiness of this country, to an extent the creditworthiness of all of us as American citizens, is being put on the line.

Is this for some lofty purpose or for some deep political principle? No, not at all. Only to gain some momentary advantage are our Republican colleagues willing to push this Nation right to the brink of financial disaster by trying to use the adjustment of the limits of this country's creditworthiness, that everyone agrees is essential, that Republican colleagues have already voted to extend in another format in a previous occasion, in fact more than one previous occasion. But now that it is time to adjust the limit and protect the creditworthiness of every American citizen acting through their Government, they want to use that device as leverage to put into effect some of the provisions that they cannot pass and enact in this Congress through ordinary democratic means to get adjustment and get a little leverage and use a crowbar to adjust and get the political ends that they think are necessary, rather than to let the democratic process work and rather than protect the creditworthiness and full faith and credit of this country.

I read with some alarm in the news of this afternoon that only this morning at a forum the respected Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] says we need something to get our House Republican Members to vote for the debt ceiling that they would not otherwise vote for.

I assume from those remarks that just merely protecting the full faith and credit of the United States is not sufficient reason. The mere prospect of this country defaulting on its obligations, obligations that all of us as American citizens have undertaken, that is not enough to get them to vote to extend and adjust this ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, he added that there would be no debt ceiling bill that will not have some additional matters attached to it.

He indicated in the same speech that it was his objective to place in that debt ceiling bill the revisions in the capital gains tax that have been referred to along with other provisions in the contract on America as the crown jewel of the contract. That is basically the program in which our Republican colleagues begin a transfer of wealth in the country by reducing the taxes on those at the top of the economic ladder and by increasing the taxes on those at the bottom of the economic ladder, a strange approach but one surely designed to widen the gap that already

exists between rich and poor in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what it is about those colleagues. I have nothing against people down at the country club enjoying their tax breaks, but I hate to see them lonely down there. I hate to see many Americans only have a chance to get to the country club if they are there to sweep the floor or mow the lawn.

Why not assure every citizen an opportunity to share in the American economic dream instead of providing all of the tax benefits to those at the top and raising taxes on those at the bottom? But that is the logic of the Republican contract on America, a contract provision that they cannot get approved through ordinary democratic means. So apparently they are willing to risk a default on the obligations of the United States of America for the first time in its history just in order to force this adjustment in the tax rate and accomplish the crown jewel, as they refer to it, in the contract on America.

I think that would be a very serious mistake, to get right up to the brink of disaster without adjusting the obligations to protect our creditworthiness.

The other aspect of this work is what we see here this afternoon, and that is a House working not on full throttle but barely turning on the ignition. This is a House that in recent months, every time it has approached a crisis, whether a manufactured crisis by the Speaker such as the "Cry Baby" shutdown or the Christmas Eve shutdown that we had of Government.

Mr. Speaker, every time they approach the crisis in America, the solution is to treat work in this Congress as if it were not only a four-letter word but a dirty four-letter word. Instead, the word that has become honored in this Congress is another four letter word, the word "quit." Every time we approach a crisis, whether it is a shutdown or now the possibility of governmental default on our obligations, the solution is to condemn work. The idea that we would stay here like Americans are working across this country today and really work and labor to solve the problems that we face in a bipartisan basis, rather, the approach is to quit.

So the approach this week is to work just a little bit and then quit on Thursday afternoon, deferring apparently until February 26, just up and quit during that time and wait until approximately 5 or 6 days before we enter complete default so that they can at the last minute, in true brinkmanship fashion come forward with a debt limit bill that contains things like the capital gains tax cut for those at the top of the economic ladder, perhaps whatever other approach might be necessary in order to bring together not this House, but just the Republican Members of this House to support an adjustment they have already voted for that is essential to protecting the economic security of this country.